

Moretonhampstead History Society

PROGRAMME FOR 2009

21st January

President's Address

Professor Ian Mercer

A Lifetime with Landscapes

18th February

Haldon Belvedere and the Palks of Haldon House

Christopher Pidsley was the Vicar of Chudleigh for many years, and is an enthusiastic local historian.

He has recently published a book on Haldon Belvedere - *The Tower on the Hill* - through Orchard Publications.

18th March

Joseph Conrad: Exile, Sea Farer and Novelist

Peter Villiers is the son of the distinguished sailor, author and photographer Alan Villiers. His book – *Joseph Conrad: Master Mariner* - completes a work begun by his father which examines Conrad's career as a merchant seaman at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Conrad later became one of the most celebrated novelists in the English language, with books such as *The Secret Agent*, *Lord Jim* and *Heart of Darkness* amongst many titles. This talk will explore how Conrad's early maritime career informed his later writing.

15th April

From Pot Water to Hydro-power: an Appreciation of Dartmoor Leats

Jane Marchand is a member of the Dartmoor National Park's Archaeology team, and an experienced speaker on local archaeology.

20th May

The Romans in Devon

Derek Gore is a Teaching Fellow in the Archaeology Department of Exeter University, and has published short works on the Romans and the Vikings in Devon.

17th June

Evening Site Visit Poltimore House

We plan to arrange an early evening tour of the restorations at Poltimore House, north of Exeter, followed by a barbecue in the grounds.

Poltimore Manor was first mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book, and the house has been successively rebuilt and refurbished through generations of the Bampfylde family. The building is now partially derelict and the Poltimore House Trust is working to restore it.

We are grateful to Alan Payne and *The Friends of Poltimore* for facilitating this visit.

Further details nearer the time.

15th July

Site Visit

We plan to arrange two sailing parties on the **Vigilance**, a 1920s Sailing Trawler berthed at Brixham.

Vigilance is one of Brixham's Heritage Fleet and is now restored, owned by a trust and used for charter.

We are grateful to Edward Hobson and *The Friend of the Vigilance* for facilitating this visit. Arrangements for the trip will depend upon tides and weather.

Further details nearer the time.

August

No Meeting

16th September

Devon Inns and their Signs

Robert Hesketh is a local historian and has published a number of books on pub walks in Devon, as well as other topics of local interest.

21st October

Annual General Meeting followed by a Social Evening

continued →

18TH NOVEMBER

**DOLLY MOPS AND LADY GIRLS:
VICTORIAN PROSTITUTES IN DEVON**

DR TODD GRAY - WHO LAST YEAR DEBUNKED THE MYTHS SURROUNDING DEVON'S 'POPULAR' HERITAGE - IS BACK, THIS TIME WITH A TALK THAT THROWS NEW LIGHT ON DEVON'S SOCIAL HISTORY.

16TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DINNER

FURTHER DETAILS NEARER THE TIME.

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**THE WEB SITE**

OUR WEBSITE IS POSSIBLY THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL HISTORY WEBSITE IN THE COUNTY. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF RESEARCH THAT COULD USEFULLY BE CARRIED OUT AND SEVERAL TOPICS AND PERIODS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS, BILL HARDIMAN, HAS KINDLY AGREED TO ACT AS OUR 'WEBMASTER', AND ALSO TO HELP ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE A SUBJECT THAT PARTICULARLY INTERESTS THEM. BILL IS AN EXPERIENCED TEACHER AND RESEARCHER, AND CAN EXPLAIN HOW TO USE LIBRARIES, RECORD OFFICES AND THE INTERNET TO BEST EFFECT.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE, YOU CAN CONTACT BILL ON 01647 440 992  
OR EMAIL: [BILLMG52001@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:BILLMG52001@HOTMAIL.COM)

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**Annual Subscriptions**  
Single £10  
Joint or Family £15  
  
Visitors £2 per meeting



**MORETONHAMPSTEAD  
HISTORY SOCIETY**

**PROGRAMME FOR  
2009**

**WWW.MORETONHAMPSTEAD.ORG.UK**

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY  
OF THE MONTH IN THE COMMUNITY CLUB,  
COURT STREET, MORETONHAMPSTEAD, AT 7.30 PM,  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED

REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MEETING